

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a glass rod, which is a parent material of an optical fiber, comprising:

a furnace which heats a base material, which is a parent material of said glass rod;

a standard rod having a predetermined straightness;

a hanging mechanism which supplies said base material to said furnace along an axis of said standard rod; and

an elongating mechanism which pulls said base material heated by said furnace along said axis of said standard rod to produce said glass rod, wherein:

at least one of said hanging mechanism and said elongating mechanism holds said standard rod to adjust a vertical inclination of said axis of said standard rod.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said standard rod is made of ceramic.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein said standard rod has a length of said base material and dummy rods that are welded onto both ends of said base material.